

Placer County Charter Review Committee

Meeting Minutes from Agenda of September 10, 2007 1:30PM

Location: Placer County Administrative Center
Executive Offices – 175 Fulweiler Avenue
Auburn CA 95603
Conference Room - A

1. Welcome - Chairman

Committee Chairman Mr. Nader opened the meeting at 1:35PM and welcomed those in attendance. Committee members present were: Mr. Wayne Nader; Mr. Aldo Pineschi; Mr. Greg Nau; Ms. Annabell McCord; and Mr. Ron Feist. Member Rick Brown joined the meeting shortly thereafter at 1:55PM. Member Todd Lindstrom was absent.

Staff present included: Mike Boyle (CEO), Michael Paddock (CEO), Tony LaBouff (County Counsel); Ann Holman (Clerk of the Board of Supervisors); Teri Sayad (Board of Supervisors); and Anita Yoder, (Public Information Officer).

Ms. Margie Spalding, a member of the public was present. Mr. Gus Thompson from the Auburn Journal was present.

Mr. Nader noted that he appreciated and respected everyone's time and would move the meetings forward.

Mr. George Beland arrived during the meeting at 2:52PM.

2. Public Comment

Ms. Spaulding noted that she did not find the meeting notice on the Placer County website but saw it in the newspaper. Ms. Spaulding stated that she was interested in having citizens understand local government and distributed a document she created outlining local agencies in Placer County. Ms. Spaulding stated she had a particular interest in the education system and specifically the issue of an appointed versus elected Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Gus Thompson from the Auburn Journal asked the Chairman if the committee had established a time frame. Mr. Nader responded that the committee had not set a firm time frame but intended to complete its work as soon as possible.

3. Minutes of August 27 – Review and Approve

Following a brief discussion concerning a minor typographical issue, Mr. Feist moved that the minutes be approved and that motion was seconded by Mr. Nau. The minutes as submitted for the August 27 meeting were approved.

4. Old Business

a. Salary Cap – County Supervisors

Initial discussion on this first item was deferred until later in the meeting.

b. Office of County Counsel – Report

Attending in place of Mr. Wirtz from County Counsel was Mr. Anthony LaBouff, the County Counsel of Placer County. Mr. LaBouff distributed a memorandum on the subject raised by the committee at its August 27 meeting concerning the position of County Counsel as the employee, and that relationship with the Board of Supervisors as the employer.

A discussion followed concerning the differences between the position of County Counsels from General Law counties and those such as Placer, which is also governed by a voter approved Charter. Specifics discussed included: the four-year term issue; the at-will status of the office of County Counsel; the other officials of the County who serve in an at-will status; the current employment agreement for Mr. LaBouff; and, removal from office for cause.

Mr. LaBouff also answered questions from committee members concerning whether his deputies were hired by him and served in an at-will capacity. Mr. LaBouff answered yes to both questions.

Discussion of members noted that the employment agreement currently in place for Mr. LaBouff's position seemed a hybrid between the provisions of General Law counties and those as allowed by a Charter-governed county for the position of County Counsel.

The matter ended with members considering whether Section 402 of the Placer County Charter should be amended and the possibility of draft language for that topic.

c. Personnel Director

At this point, the issue from the August 27 meeting the committee asking if the Board of Supervisors, following a recommendation from the Charter Review Committee, could place measures on the ballot as a packaged “slate” or must issues be presented separately to the electorate. Mr. Paddock produced and distributed a memorandum from Mr. Wirtz answering that question. In summary, the memorandum stated that the Board of Supervisors has the authority to pick and choose which measures it deems appropriate for the electorate to consider. Mr. LaBouff also noted that as a general rule, the electorate is given the opportunity to decide one issue at a time.

The committee then moved to the issue of the Personnel Director and that reporting relationship to the Civil Service Commission. While noting that the Civil Service Commission is not addressed specifically in the Placer County Charter, Mr. Boyle and Mr. LaBouff provided the committee with 1960’s historical information when the voters created the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. LaBouff recalled that several measures were placed before the voters in the 1990’s asking for a change in the role of the Personnel Director and the Civil Service Commission, and those measures were rejected. The committee asked staff to provide copies of those measures and ballot language for the next meeting.

The committee asked how many employees were serving in the at-will category versus those not at-will. Staff was asked to provide that information for the next meeting.

The Chairman and the committee members also requested that any information be provided to them as soon as possible before the next meeting rather than receiving the materials during the actual meeting. Staff will provide materials as developed to all members in advance of future meetings.

d. Superintendent of Schools – Method of Selection

Mr. Boyle notified the members that he was contacted by Mr. Don Brophy of the Placer County Office of Education on September 10 concerning this issue. During his discussion with Mr. Brophy, Mr. Boyle suggested that with the Chairman’s concurrence, he would schedule an agenda item allowing Mr. Brophy to address the committee directly on this topic at a future meeting.

With the Chairman's approval and concurrence of the other members, it was agreed to defer discussion of this item until the next meeting and agendaize Mr. Brophy's presentation.

5. New Business

a. Charter Review Topics – Report from Placer County Departments

It was noted by Mr. Paddock that following a memorandum to all Placer County Department Heads requesting topics or issues for the Charter Review Committee to consider, thus far, only the Director of Child Support Services submitted an item concerning specific language contained in the Charter.

Mr. Boyle noted that in addition to the above mentioned memorandum, he further requested topics from the Department Heads at a subsequent Department Head meeting. As this time, nothing further has been received.

b. Salary Information – Board of Supervisors

Mr. Paddock presented a summary of salary information for Boards of Supervisors. The information contained statewide salary information (without benefits) for Boards of Supervisors and the method for determining those salaries.

A discussion followed concerning what other counties might serve as comparable counties for determining an appropriate salary for Placer County Supervisors. Mr. Paddock noted that there are counties which serve in that capacity and the factors considered include population, budget, demographics, income, etc.

Further discussion addressed how to establish an appropriate salary along with a method for keeping pace with the cost of living. It was noted from the handout provided by Mr. Paddock that the approaches utilized in setting the salary of Supervisors throughout the state are: indexed by various percentages to the salary of judges; established by local ordinance; average of comparable counties; and in one case, the median of ten other counties.

Discussion amongst the members addressed the public receptivity of establishing salaries tied to those of judges versus establishing a salary utilizing comparable counties.

Mr. Beland, as a former elected Placer County Supervisor serving at the time when the voters approved Measure A limiting the salary of Supervisors to \$30,000 per year, provided information from that period.

The committee requested staff to provide more comprehensive information including the salaries and benefits for Boards of Supervisors statewide, preferably in advance of the next meeting, if possible. This information should also include a separate document showing what other counties are considered comparable to Placer County.

6. Next Meeting Date

The next Charter Review Committee meeting date will be Monday, October 1, 2007 at 1:30PM, in Conference Room A, Placer County Administrative Center, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603

Charter Review Committee contact persons: Michael Paddock, Senior Management Analyst, County Executive Office, 530.889.4030. Or, Mike Boyle, Assistant County Executive, County Executive Office, 530.889.4010.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17PM.

Action Items for Next Meeting of October 1:

<u>What</u>	<u>Who</u>
Present statewide salary and benefit information for Boards of Supervisors	Mr. Paddock
Present salary and benefit information for comparable counties	Mr. Paddock
Present previous ballot measures and language concerning the Civil Service Commission and the role of the Personnel Director	Mr. Paddock
Notify Mr. Brophy of next meeting date	Mr. Boyle
Present numbers of at-will (Unclassified) versus not at-will (Classified) Placer County employees	Mr. Paddock

Distribute materials to all members in advance of
next meeting

Mr. Paddock

Post next meeting date, agenda and minutes
on County website

Mr. Paddock

Minutes submitted by:
Michael J. Boyle, Assistant CEO